REMARKS

Claims 31-44 were pending in this application.

Claims 31-39 had been rejected.

Claims 40-44 had been allowed.

Claims 31-39 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 40-44 are now pending in this application.

Because Claims 40-44 have been allowed and are the only pending claims in this application, the Applicant respectfully requests that this patent application be passed to issue.

DOCKET No. PRES06-00163 SERIAL NO. 09/556,143 **PATENT**

SUMMARY

If any issue arises, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at wmunck@davismunck.com.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this communication (including any extension of time fees) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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